1975. Beginning from 33 projects, there are 2,341 centraly sponsored sanctioned ICDS projects in the country, as on date. It is a block-based programme and there are on an average 100 Anganwadis per project. All components of ICDS programme are centrally monitored by the Government of India, on the basis of computerised Monitoring Information System, monthly as well as quarterly. As per quarterly progress report for the period ending 30 June 1991 there are 114.43 lakhs Children of 0-6 years and 24.13 lakhs expectant women and nursing mothers receiving supplementary nutrition. Out of these 60.52 lakhs children are receiving preschool education also.

Further, the programme has been reviewed and evaluated from time to time by various agencies, including All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Planning Commission and Nutrition Foundation of India.

These evaluation and review studies have show that:

i) The incidence of severe malnutrition has declined considerably in ICDS projects areas.

ii) The participation of the most vulnerable age group i.e, 0-3 is higher than in any previous child welfare programme. About 45% of the children receiving supplementary nutrition are below 3 years of age.

iii) The immunisation coverage of children in the ICDS project areas in substantially higher, sometimes even three to four times higher, than in the non-ICDS areas.

iv) Decline in infant mortality and birth rates and greater acceptance of family planning in ICDS project areas has been noticed.

v) Other positive trends, like increased birth weights of babies, greater prevention of disability by immunisation, control of Vitamin A deficiency and anaemia, have also been noticed.

[*English*]

Sponsoring Of Indian Students to USSR For Medical And Engineering Education

6285. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian students are being sponsored to USSR for medial and engineering education under USSR scholarship scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a). Students are not being sponsored under the USSR Government Scholarships Scheme for medical and engineering education of Indian students administered by Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through Medical Council of India, just now as acceptable annual offers for 1991-92 have not been received from the USSR authorites concerned.